

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the recitation of the optical system, as well as to clarify that the controller controls the initialization of the optical system based on the lens information stored in the memory when the camera device is started up in the state in which the recording mode for photographing is set, and suspends the initialization of the optical system and starts execution of the file management program to enable the management area to be used when the camera device is started up in a state in which a playback mode for display is set. See, for example, Fig. 4 and the disclosure in the specification at page 10, line 26 to page 13, line 11.

Independent claim 5, moreover, has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1.

In addition, claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 3 so as to correct the informality pointed out by the Examiner.

Still further, claim 6, which was rejected under 35 USC 101, has been canceled.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

With the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 5, if a recording mode is set when the device is started up, an initializing operation (see steps SA9 to SA14 in Fig. 4) in which, for example, the lens group 11 is zoomed open, is executed, but if a playback mode is set, the initializing operation is skipped and a preparing operation for a memory area 41c is executed. Therefore, the starting time required for a playback mode is shortened by skipping the initializing operation. See the disclosure in the specification at page 12, line 6 to page 14, line 21.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art of record does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the above described structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention recited in amended independent claims 1 and 5.

Indeed, it is respectfully submitted out that JP 2001-268413 merely discloses a main microcomputer 13 for transferring a program recorded in a ROM 24 to a DRAM 17 and performing an operation when power supply is started, and a sub microcomputer 21 for controlling the power supply to the main microcomputer 13 based on the operation of a power switch. In addition, JP 2001-268413 discloses that the collapsible barrel release processing of a zoom lens 11a is performed by the sub microcomputer 21 in parallel with a program transfer processing

from the ROM 24 to the DRAM 17 by the main microcomputer 13 (see the Abstract of JP 2001-268413).

It is respectfully submitted, however, that JP 2001-268413 does not contain any disclosure with respect to a recording mode and playback mode and executing or skipping a lens initializing operation.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 5, as well as claims 2-4 depending from claim 1, clearly patentably distinguishes over JP 2001-268413, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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